

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAFAEL BARON: PORTRAITS
APRIL 2, 2022 – APRIL 30, 2022
ALBERTZ BENDA, LA



Left: *Maria Luísa*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas. 98 1/2 x 86 5/8 inches | 250 x 220 cm.
Right: *Inseparáveis*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas. 98 1/2 x 86 5/8 inches | 250 x 220 cm

LOS ANGELES, CA: Opening April 1st, albertz benda is pleased to present Rafael Baron: *Portraits*, the Brazilian artist's first solo show with the gallery. With this exhibition, the artist will present a series of paintings showcasing his signature style of portraiture. Vibrant textiles, patterned with thick swatches of acrylic paint, emphasize the figures' individuality. Monumental in scale, Baron's rhythmic compositions celebrate his enigmatic subjects with expressive linework and bold, dynamic color.

In *Maria Luísa*, 2022, a woman, her dark hair swirling around her head, dominates the composition. Her expression is ambiguous, and the purple-pink background reveals little of her surroundings. The subject's personality is legible only through her expressive attire— the colorful, patterned frock and gold earrings suggest both a sense of vitality and eminence.

Curator Raphael Fonesca writes that Baron's group scenes "invite us to observe the racial, gender, hair, jewelry, and clothing differences of these bodies. What unites and separates these small gatherings?" In *Inseparáveis*, 2022, four androgynous figures encircle the body of a woman. Larger in scale and swathed in electric blue fabric, this central body unites the composition. Brought together, the figures' varying clothing, hair styles, and skin tones triumphantly recognize diversity and community.

ABOUT RAFAEL BARON

Rafael Baron (B. 1986, Nova Iguaçu, Brazil) sees art as a powerful communication tool that can contribute to a harmonious social experience. His brightly colored portraits of diverse individuals propose an open dialogue on tolerance and diversity. He was recently included in “Wish you were here,” a curatorial project by Danny First at The Cabin, Los Angeles. Baron was awarded in the 2019/2020 “Garimpo” contest promoted by Dasartes magazine, an accolade aimed at Brazilian emerging artists who have never had an individual exhibition at an art institution. His works belong to private collections in Brazil and abroad and are also included in the collection of the Museo de Arte de Río, Brazil.

ABOUT ALBERTZ BENDA

Founded in 2015, albertz benda is a contemporary art gallery with an international program exploring material and textility as well as cultural and social dialogues. Our Chelsea space is host to rotating exhibitions with an emphasis on solo presentations of emerging artists, new research into historic figures, and thematic group exhibitions. In 2021, the gallery expanded to a second location in Los Angeles. Featuring an evolving identity separate from our New York program, the LA space is realized within the context of a domestic setting, advancing new connections between visual arts, craft, and design.

Follow albertz benda on Instagram via [@albertzbenda](#)

albertz benda:

Rachel Tretter

e: rachel@albertzbenda.com

t: +1 (212) 244-2579

Press & Media Inquiries:

Charles Hickey

e: charles@albertzbenda.com

t: +1 404 520 4763